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Minutes, July 2004

Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee (ABAC)

Minutes for July 12, 2004.

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Ted Packard, Stephan Miller, Ron Sender, Scott Smith and Christopher Tonkin. Others present were Joey Glushko, Carol Jackson, Parris Kellerman, and Pete Howard.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm. We started with introductions and local conversations about bicycling.

*We voted to accept the minutes for our June 7 meeting with one change.

National criteria for "Bicycle-Friendly Community" designation at the local level. The State of Mass. currently has no Bicycle Friendly Communities. We discussed the possibility of winning that designation for Arlington. We decided that a few obstacles remain. The bike-averse policies of some schools and some weak bicycle infrastructure are issues we need to address before applying. Requirements for the designation can be found on the LAB web site. There are different levels of certification.

We discussed holding a bike-friendly workshop for Town leaders. Jack suggested that would need the endorsement of the Selectmen and Town Manager's office and pointed out that many of the improvements will not cost much money. We were generally in favor of beginning to work on becoming a more bicycle-friendly community. Scott summarized our strengths and weaknesses. Joey suggested putting together a plan to put before the Selectmen in January.

ACTION ITEM: Scott, Joey, Jack and Ted will work on the project. We will seek additional volunteers at Town Day. Pete suggested that we submit a memo to the Selectmen before we go public with this project.

Planning for ABAC's Town Day Exhibit. We thought Town Day might be an opportunity to poll people about where in Town they would like additional bicycle parking. Scott suggested that we mount a map of Arlington and provide people with push pins to indicate their choices. Scott will take responsibility for setting up the map.

ACTION ITEM: Jack will contact Jim Shay about Minute Man Bikeway patches.

ACTION ITEM: Jack will obtain bike maps, pocket rides and Bike Free for sale.

ACTION ITEM: Stephan will prepare a small display about Bikeway cleanups.

ACTION ITEM: Ted will work on a commuter routes flier.

ACTION ITEM: Christopher will bring the table and banner.

ACTION ITEM: Stephan will bring some chairs.

We also discussed providing bicycle parking at Town Day, but decided against doing it.

ACTION ITEM: We will make a walk around survey to work on parking locations.

Parking Brochure. Carol suggested that we follow Cambridge's lead and pull information off the City web site. The site is interactive and asks for possible locations for bicycle parking. Carol will also talk to Cambridge to see in more detail how they are organized. Scott thought that putting bike-parking rings on existing light posts is a good place to start. Scott also suggested a two pronged approach, post and ring in the short run and some other more efficient solution to be included in long term planning.

ACTION ITEM: Joey will explore this issue with town officials.

ACTION ITEM: Scott will update TAC about our bike-parking status.

Trail Research Program. Carol summarized the HSPH Trail Research Program. One aspect of the program is assessing the connection between environmental factors and the use of parks and rail-trails.

We discussed a request from Friends of Alewife Reservation for a link on the ABAC website. We agreed to provide a link on the ABAC website.

We reviewed the action items from the last meeting.

*The meeting was adjourned at 9:29 pm.

*Denotes issues on which a vote was taken.